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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/660,981	09/12/2003	Kevin Moore	60046.0052US01	6124

7590 04/05/2007

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EXAMINER	
REZA, MOHAMMAD W	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2136	

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	04/05/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/660,981	MOORE, KEVIN	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Mohammad W. Reza	2136	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *12 September 2003*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-21* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-21* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *12 September 2003* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-21 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kodama et al hereafter Kodama (US patent 5983349).

4. As per claim 1, 14, and 15 Kodama discloses a method comprising: reading from each of the data storage devices one or more data storage device identifiers; determining from the data storage device identifiers whether the data storage device supports the security features; in response to determining that the data storage device supports the security features, determining whether the data storage device is locked and returning from a powered off state or a hardware reset (col. 2, lines 5-33); in response to determining that the data storage device is locked and returning from a powered off state or a hardware reset, receiving from a user a password for unlocking the data storage device; in response to receiving the password, determining whether the received password is the security password; and in response to the received password being the security password, unlocking the data storage device and thereby allowing access to data stored on the data storage device (col. 3, lines 17-55).

4. As per claim 2, Kodama discloses the method wherein the method is implemented during a power on test procedure of a computer hosting the data storage devices (col. 4, lines 34-49).

4. As per claim 3, Kodama discloses the method comprising: in response to the data storage device remaining locked, determining whether limited access should be provided to each locked data storage device; in response to determining that limited access should be provided, preparing each locked data storage device for presentation to an operating system for limited access; and in response to determining that limited access should not be provided to each locked data storage device, isolating each locked data storage device from the operating system (col. 2, lines 55-67, col. 3, lines 1-17).

4. As per claim 4, Kodama discloses the method wherein limited access comprises prohibiting reading from or writing to the locked data storage device (col. 2, lines 55-67, col. 3, lines 1-17).

4. As per claim 5, Kodama discloses the method wherein the data storage devices are locked upon experiencing a powered off state, a sleep state, or a hardware reset, and wherein the method further comprises: in response to the received password being the security password, determining whether a data storage device returning from a sleep state should be unlocked without requiring a user to enter a password; and in response to determining that the data storage device should be unlocked without

requiring a user to enter a password, storing the security password within a memory located outside the data storage device (col. 2, lines 5-33, col. 1, lines 37-45).

4. As per claim 6, Kodama discloses the method comprising: in response to determining that the data storage device is locked, determining whether the data storage device is returning from a powered off sleep state; in response to the data storage device being locked and returning from a powered off sleep state, determining whether the data storage device was unlocked prior to the sleep state; in response to determining that the data storage device was unlocked prior to the sleep state, determining whether a data storage device returning from a sleep state should be unlocked without requiring a user to enter a password; and in response to determining that the data storage device should be unlocked without requiring a user to enter a password, retrieving the security password from the memory and utilizing the security password to unlock the data storage device (col. 2, lines 5-33, col. 1, lines 37-45).

4. As per claim 7, Kodama discloses the method wherein the security password is stored within the memory in an encrypted format (col. 2, lines 5-33).

4. As per claim 8, Kodama discloses the method comprising in response to determining that the data storage device should be unlocked after returning from a sleep state by requiring a user to enter a password, receiving the security password from a user and utilizing the security password to unlock the data storage device (col. 3, lines 17-55).

4. As per claim 9, Kodama discloses the method comprising: in response to determining that the data storage device is unlocked, determining whether a security

password has been enabled; and in response to determining that the data storage device is unlocked and that no security password is enabled for the data storage device, disabling, until a next power cycle, the security features that enable security passwords (col. 2, lines 5-33, col. 1, lines 37-45).

4. As per claim 10, Kodama discloses the method comprising: in response to the data storage device being locked and returning from a powered off state or a hardware reset, determining whether a backup password may be used to unlock the data storage device; in response to determining that a backup password may be used; determining whether a request to enter a backup password has been received; in response to receiving a request to enter a backup password, receiving from a user a password for unlocking the data storage device; and in response to the received password being the backup password, unlocking the data storage device and thereby allowing access to data stored on the data storage device (col. 2, lines 5-33).

4. As per claim 11, Kodama discloses the method comprising: in response to the received password being the backup password, determining whether a maximum security is supported by the security features; and in response to the received password being the backup password and the maximum security being supported, erasing the data storage device before unlocking the data storage device (col. 2, lines 5-33).

4. As per claim 12, Kodama discloses the method wherein a password entry attempt counter is set for a maximum number of entry attempts allowed, further comprising: in response to determining that the password is not the security password, determining whether the password entry attempt counter is equal to zero; in response to

the password entry attempt counter being greater than zero, decrementing the password entry attempt counter by one and again receiving a password from a user; and in response to the password entry attempt counter equaling zero, prohibiting additional password entries until a next power cycle and displaying a message that the data storage device remains locked (col. 2, lines 55-67, col. 3, lines 1-17).

4. As per claim 13, Kodama discloses the method comprising executing a setup utility within the basic input/output system operative to control one or more functions for manipulating at least one of a security password and a backup password for a data storage device supporting the security features wherein the functions are accessed by one of entering the security password when prompted by the setup utility and selecting the data storage device in the setup utility when said data storage device is unlocked (col. 2, lines 55-67, col. 3, lines 1-17).

4. As per claim 16, Kodama discloses a system for securing the contents of one or more data storage devices capable of storing a security password for unlocking and locking the data storage

devices located within a computer, the system comprising: a display; a memory; a central processing unit; a basic input/output system for controlling the basic input/output functions of the computer comprising an operating system independent setup utility for controlling functions for manipulating data storage device security (col. 2, lines 5-33).

4. As per claim 17, Kodama discloses the system wherein the operating system independent setup utility is operative to receive a selection of a data storage device, receive a selection of a password function to perform on the selected data storage

device, determine whether a security password has been enabled for a selected data storage device, in response to the security password not being enabled, receive from a user a security password, and in response to receiving the security password from the user, enable the security password on the selected data storage device, wherein enabling the security password includes storing the security password on the selected data storage device thereby preventing access to contents of the selected data storage device when the selected data storage device is locked with the security password (col. 3, lines 17-55).

4. As per claim 18, Kodama discloses The system, wherein the operating system independent setup utility is further operative to determine whether a hardware reset is performed when the setup utility is exited and in response to determining that a hardware reset is not performed when the setup utility is exited, exit the setup utility and remove power from the selected data storage device thereby locking the selected data storage device with the security password (col. 2, lines 5-33, col. 1, lines 37-45).

4. As per claim 19, Kodama discloses the system, wherein the operating system independent setup utility is further operative to one of: in response to the security password being enabled, receive a password from a user, in response to receiving a password, determine whether the password is the security password by attempting to disable security for the selected data storage device with the password, and in response to the received password being the security password, disable then re-enable the security of the selected data storage device thereby validating the password as the security password; and in response to the security password being enabled and the

data storage device being unlocked, grant access to the functions for manipulating data storage device security (col. 2, lines 55-67, col. 3, lines 1-17).

4. As per claim 20, and 21 Kodama discloses a method comprising: storing a security password within a memory located outside the data storage device; in response to determining that the data storage device is locked, determining whether the data storage device is returning from a sleep state (col. 2, lines 5-33); in response to the data storage device being locked and returning from a sleep state, determining whether the data storage device was unlocked prior to the sleep state; and in response to determining that the data storage device was unlocked prior to the sleep state, retrieving the security password from the memory and utilizing the security password to unlock the data storage device (col. 3, lines 17-55).

Conclusion

30. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mohammad w. Reza whose telephone number is 571-272-6590. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:00-5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, MOAZZAMI NASSER G can be reached on (571)272-4195. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Mohammad Wasim Reza

AU 2136

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3/30/07